

# UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - December 2007

## ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Dec 2nd	6.00pm	<b>UNITED BENEFICE ADVENT CAROLS at WINSFORD</b>
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	<b>CAROLS</b> Readers To be arranged Sidesman Mrs R Peto, Mr R Neal and Daniel Matravers
Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	<b>BCB HC</b> Readers Mr E Beckett & Mrs G Langdon Sidesman Mr R Neal
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.15am	<b>CW HC</b> Readers Mrs M Russell & Nick Matravers Sidesman Daniel Matravers
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	<b>CHRISTINGLE</b> Readers to be arranged Sidesmen Daniel, Nick and Mark Matravers
	11.30pm	<b>CW HC</b> Readers Mr J Webber & Revd. D Coates Sidesman Mr R Neal
Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>UNITED BENEFICE BCP HC at WINSFORD</b>
Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	<b>BCP E/S</b> Readers Mr R Webber & Mrs W Schofield Sidesman Mr P Webber
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	<b>BCP HC</b> Readers Mr E Beckett & Mr J Webber Sideman Mr R Neal

## FLOWERS & BRASS

Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Enid Mantin
Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mr & Mrs Foley

## **MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB – November**

£20 No. 148 Mr B Cummins    £10 No. 41 Mrs E Webber;  
£5 No. 136 Mr & Mrs Hardisty

## **CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December            Teas – Barbara Norman  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December        Teas – Eileen Webber

## **ST JOHN'S CHURCH**

Church decorating for Christmas will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December between 9.30am and 11.00am. Any foliage, flowers and help will be greatly appreciated. *Gill*

### **Diary dates**

Christmas time is always busy with plenty of events for you to enjoy. We hope that you will come along and support us this year in our fundraising.

**Church Whist Drive - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** in the Moorland Hall at 7.30pm. Excellent prizes – come along and enjoy a good evening.

**Auction of Produce - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** (at approx 12noon) by kind permission of Exmoor Farmers at their Annual Fatstock Show in the Auction Field.

Come along and bid furiously in aid of the Church Funds and take home some Christmas goodies. All contributions welcome on the day.

**Church Bingo - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December** in the Moorland Hall. Another good evening in store.

## **CUTCOMBE W.I.**

Our Christmas dinner will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm in the Rest and be Thankful. Our AGM will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> followed by entertainment and buffet.

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

The Royal British Legion would like to express their grateful thanks to the people of Cutcombe Parish for their very generous response to this year's Poppy Appeal, which brought in a total of £473.48

## **CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Council met on the 15<sup>TH</sup> of November and again on 20<sup>th</sup>, this second meeting too late for details to appear here. Draft minutes of all meetings are available on the website [www.wheddoncross.org.uk](http://www.wheddoncross.org.uk) and are posted on the Parish noticeboards at Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge. Remember to leave any community notices or correspondence for the Clerk in the yellow folder at the Londis shop.

### **2008/09 Budget**

At the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November Council discussed proposals for the 2008/09 budget: any parishioner who wishes to put forward suggestions or ideas should contact the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or the Clerk before the December meeting. The final budget requirement has to be notified to West Somerset District Council by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and so will be agreed by Council at its December meeting.

### **Parish Paths Liaison Officer**

The Exmoor National Park Authority undertakes the maintenance, signage and waymarking of 272 miles of public footpaths, 288 miles of public bridleways and 65 miles of other public rights of ways and permitted routes. With so much to look after it would be helpful if local walkers and riders could report any problems to a co-ordinating officer in the Parish who could then liaise with the National Park. Anyone interested in being involved in a Parish Paths Liaison scheme please contact the Chairman or the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm in the Moorland Hall. The agenda will be available on the website and on the Parish Council noticeboards in Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge several days beforehand. Please remember that all parishioners are warmly welcomed at Parish Council meetings and time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions and statements.

Contact the Clerk, Marlene Allinson, for any further information: (01984) 639901 or e-mail [marlene@marleneallinson.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:marlene@marleneallinson.wanadoo.co.uk)

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Arthur (Webber) will be celebrating his 90th Birthday on Monday 10th December.

After attending the DSSH Meet at Wheddon Cross at 10.30am, Arthur will be spending the day at 'Dunkery View' (Opposite the Rest and Be Thankful Car Park) where he will be welcoming all who would like to call in and wish him well.

Looking forward to seeing you on this his Special Birthday. *Roger and Kathy*

## **LEEK TART**

9in flan case lined with short-crust pastry (do not precook)

3lb leeks

3oz butter

10fl oz double cream

3 egg yolks

3 rashers bacon (leave out if vegetarian)

Tbsp wholegrain mustard (to suit your taste)

Salt, pepper, nutmeg

Preheat oven 180C/350F/Gas4

Thinly slice the tenderest part of the leek and put into large frying pan with the butter and cook slowly until golden on your lowest heat. Leave to cool.

Grill the bacon and chop or whiz in blender. Leave to cool.

Combine all ingredients and fill flan dish to brim and slide into oven 35-40 minutes or until tremblingly set.

Best eaten slightly warm or cold.

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov was an unusual day. Not only Remembrance Day but also a Sunday, so a United Benefice Service was held at St. John's Cutcombe at 10.45 so that we could embrace the Remembrance Service within the Family Service. It was very hard to sing and weep but we did.

Our eyes were glazed with tears as Jonathan Webber played The Last Post and the names of the lost men of our 4 villages were read out; then the eternal words of Rupert Brooke; followed by Reveille, again by beautifully played by Jon.

We had a very large congregation (110) and the collection was for the Poppy Appeal Fund.

We have a Church cleaner at last!! Now our septuagenarians can hand over their dusters and get off their knees!

Don't forget to read the Exton section, Kendle Farm are now in gear to sell their own meat shrink wrapped ready for your freezer.

Check your Oil Bills, recently 3 people were delivered oil on the same day and were charged 3 different prices per litre (one person got over £30 reduction).

Come to Mully's for tea, nibbles, wine and Jewellery. Any donations will go to Air Ambulance and Cutcombe Church. Open from 12.30 -7pm for all those who work. Mully's sister Kella will be selling her very pretty silver and semi precious stone Jewellery.

## **MOTHERS UNION**

Our October meeting was held at the home of Rose Peto and we were pleased to welcome two visitors to our meeting.

After the office our speaker Mary Dowrick spoke about her visit to Africa and the work that was being done by so many of the Mothers Union out there. She wore a very colourful skirt that had been presented to her by some of the tribal ladies. We also viewed some of the films taken during her visit. It was a very interesting afternoon with our ladies keen to ask her questions about her visit.

A vote of thanks was given to Mary and also to Rose for her hospitality.

The November meeting was held at the Rectory by invitation of Mrs Brenda Staples.

After the office we welcomed our speaker Madeline Flanagan, the manager of Wyndham House in Minehead. She was accompanied by Lillian Harding who has been manager at the home for 20 years and said how much she still loves her job.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THISTLEDOME

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 12.30pm until 7.00pm

Mully and Charles Woolmer

Invite you to afternoon tea, cakes, nibbles, a glass of wine  
and a chance to purchase some Christmas gifts

Mully's sister will be bringing Sterling Silver and Semi Precious  
Stone Jewellery for you to 'Try and Buy' at warehouse prices

Funky jewellery for Teens

Heirloom Pieces

High Fashion Watches

Ropes of freshwater Pearls

Evening Bags and much more

Everything at affordable prices

Any donations will be gratefully received and passed on to Air  
Ambulance and St. John's Cutcombe

## ANOTHER PIECE OF HISTORY

**From Geoff Peirce now living in the south of France**

In my retirement, I have returned to my roots in Somerset several times in

the past few years. In fact, it has now become an annual event and my wife and I both enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Wheddon Cross/Cutcombe and the glorious surrounding countryside. On one of these trips Cynthia Stevens asked if I could write up something on my family history. I was surprised when that appeared on Wheddon Cross's website but now delighted that there has been additional family histories, recently added. As my original version was badly presented, I have updated and hope that it might be of interest. I have been researching my family history for some years and love to hear stories about life in the past. Our parents went through extremely difficult times and it is a credit to them that we have got where we are today.

I was born at Stowey Farm on 14th December 1938 and have been told by my parents that it was a very snowy day and that the doctor had come out from Timberscombe on his horse. My birth was registered in 1938 in the Parish of Cutcombe.

My father was born in East London in 1905 and went into service and finished as butler in the London Household of Fred Beadle at 1 Queens Gate, Kensington. My mother was born in Wiltshire and was also in service in London when she met my father. At the outbreak of war, the family and servants of Fred Beadle moved to his country estate at Stowey Farm, which he had bought after the Bouverie estate was split up and sold off. Beadle was a wealthy industrialist having made his money in coal.

My father enlisted in the RAF in 1943 and my mother, my sister and myself moved into a cottage at Great House Street, Timberscombe, owned by Beadle. My sister and I went to school in Timberscombe and for a while my mother worked for the Hodder Williams family (Publishers) at Duddings Timberscombe. My sister was friendly with the Bond family who ran the Post Office at Timberscombe.

Before my father was demobilised, Beadle had sold Stowey Farm and moved first of all to Clouds, Timberscombe and eventually to Willett House. Mr Beadle was well liked by everybody. Arthur Webber remembers him well and said that he could shoot with his one arm better than most people with two.

Post war conditions were quite hard and for a while we squatted in the vicarage at Timberscombe before my father found a job as lorry driver in Bishops Lydeard. There, we lived for a while in an old army camp called Sandhill. Eventually we moved to Surrey, my father becoming manager of a newsagent shop.

After moving to Bishops Lydeard, I went to school there, but we returned to Timberscombe around 1947 for a few months and lived in a cottage called Pero, on the road from Timberscombe to Wheddon Cross. This was in order for my sister to take her 11+ examination at the village school.

I have very few memories of my childhood but recall walking to school from Pero to Timberscombe, in heavy snow only to find that classes had been cancelled. The Headmistress (Mrs Willis) made us a hot drink and we had to walk all the way back. My wartime memories are few, but I do recall the German prisoners of war working on the road near Timberscombe and also a German plane crashing on the hills somewhere, which we all went to see.

During my life, I have lived in Surrey, Swansea, Essex and then a long spell in Belgium before retiring in France. It has been an interesting voyage and the peace and climate here in France is wonderful, but nothing can compare with the green pastures of Wheddon Cross.

If anyone has any information about Stowey Farm and my family I would be very pleased to receive the information. [godfrey.peirce@packsurfwifi.com](mailto:godfrey.peirce@packsurfwifi.com)

## **EXMOOR FARMERS CHRISTMAS SHOW**

Their annual Fatstock Show takes place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December in the Auction Field. Do come along and see the excellent quality produce from our local farmers. This includes fresh turkey, goose, duck and lamb which will be auctioned later in the day.

Cutcombe Church, Minehead Harriers and West Somerset Foxhounds also have their Auctions of Produce by kind permission of Exmoor Farmers. There are plenty of goodies on offer – drinkable, edible and giftable!

Do come along and have a look. You will be amazed to see the wide choice available to bid for.



# CHRISTMAS BINGO



TO BE HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2007  
AT THE MOORLAND HALL, WHEDDON CROSS

Eyes Down at 8pm



All Are Welcome



ALL PROCEEDS TO DUNKERY PRESCHOOL

## CUTCOMBE SCHOOL

### **Garden developments**

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week we had a willow artist working with the children creating fantastic structures including a huge butterfly and what will be a 'live' peacock (the tail will produce leaves). The children also made dragonflies and mobiles that are now hung in the trees. Before the bonfire got lit, children, parents, staff and governors built the bonfire twice as high with the hard effort of garden clearing. Various wildlife areas were built, as well as the talking pipe completed. With hot dogs and soup on hand for the hard workers, it was an evening worth attending.

Over the next few weeks there are huts being installed for seating areas as well as a potting shed for the gardening club.

### **Christmas Production**

This year's production is called Hosanna Rock and will be performed in the Moorland Hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6.30pm.

### **Parish Plan**

I wish to thank the children first for coming up with a number of very good ideas for the Parish Plan. I also wish to thank the parents for their contributions during the first part of Happy Assembly.

For those of you who haven't read the Parish Magazine – the Parish have gained some funding to produce a plan for the future of Cutcombe Parish. They would like to know what can be done to improve the future for us all. How we can maintain a thriving community. If you have any ideas or thoughts please contact Linda Atkins (01643) 841230 or [lindaatkins@dunkeryhill.co.uk](mailto:lindaatkins@dunkeryhill.co.uk)

**Hi-Tec Drains** have donated a substantial sum of money for the maintenance and upkeep of the school minibus.

The minibus has just been sign written with the names of the schools in the Beacon Federation, Cutcombe and Timberscombe First Schools, again due to the generosity of Mike Willes and Hi-Tec Drains. So now, if you see us travelling about you know it is us and can give us a wave.

## WHEDDON CROSS CARNIVAL CLUB

### Autumn report

Once again it's been a while since our last report. After making a few adjustments since Watchet Carnival we attended Barnstaple on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The weather was great & everyone enjoyed themselves. We entered the children's class & gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The procession was good even though we had a few problems with the generator.

The following week we took part in Wellington Carnival, but after working on the generator all week we had no joy in getting it to go so had to hire one. The evening started well but as soon as the procession started so did the rain & it didn't stop all night, yet with all the rain the children's spirits were not dampened half as much as that of our walking stewards who by the end of the evening were rather wet. With a good attendance of floats in our class we didn't manage to get a placing by the judges

Next was Dulverton a fine dry night brought a good crowd and plenty of floats with still no big generator this week we borrowed a PTO one and a tractor with front linkage etc from Mr R Webber (Hindon) & Mr J Norman (Riverside) respectively. Our thanks to them both. Being a bit out of the ordinary it did raise a few eyebrows. A successful night once again being judged Best Village and Best Children's float.

Then came Taunton another dry wild night and also it being the Rugby Cup final night as well with the same tractor and generator but some fresh faces due to the fact that some of us had other commitments. We must thank Richard Gill of Team Masons at Chudleigh for driving and the Weatherlake family for filling children's places

A large and appreciative crowd made for a great night topped off by being judged 1<sup>st</sup> in the under 50ft class.

A special thanks to the Cook family of Bishops Lydeard for loaning us a PTO shaft when ours blew apart just an hour before the procession was due to start.

At the time of writing we only have Tiverton Carnival to go and we will have the big generator back thanks to Harry Bishop having repaired the injector pump.

Our thanks to everyone who has helped make this season happen in whatever form.

### **Finally has anyone ever seen MICK RICE without a beard?**

Well now's your chance. It was way back in 1976 when Mick was last clean-shaven. As a joke Mick was bet he wouldn't ever shave his beard off again. After a lot of banter Mick said "If you want to me with no beard you will have to pay" so if anyone wants to sponsor Mick for this hair-raising event please see him or any club member to sign up. All monies raised will go to Carnival Club funds. The 5<sup>th</sup> January 2008 has been selected as the night when we will no longer see the hair on his chinny chin chin. Look out for poster or watch this space for more details. *Chris Matravers*

### **WELCOME TO WHEDDON CROSS**

We would like to welcome Clive and Donna Martin with their son Scott to Number 8 Bouverie Close. They have moved here from Frampton Cotterell in South Gloucestershire. Clive is a Sales Consultant with 'Dreams Beds' in Ashton, Bristol and will be commuting and Donna will be looking for retail work in the area in the New Year.

Clive and Donna would like to thank everyone for making them feel so welcome especially the Rest and Be Thankful who were fully booked on the Saturday they arrived but pulled out all the stops to ensure that the three of them plus the rest of their visiting family were able to dine. Having recently worked in management for 6 years in a 4\* Hotel Clive found the excellent service a merit to all concerned.

Scott will be attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Form in West Somerset Community College and their other children – Jolene is a senior Nursery Nurse in South Gloucestershire and son Christopher teaches maths in Mill Hill School, north London.

You will see us with our 2 Jack Russells – Chloe and Brandon.

Clive has informed the family that he is going to be busy with a paintbrush and paint the bungalow from the front door to the back and hopes to surface by the spring!

## **WEATHER EYE**

**A warm October**

**A cold February**

The first week of October started grey, dismal and foggy all day for the first couple of days but improved as the week went on becoming more mild with lots of sunshine. 2 swallows were seen near Dunkery Beacon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but no more since then; (why have they all left early?). Do they know something we don't!

The second week was mixed with more sun, a little rain and light winds. The third week brought the first frosts of the autumn (on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>) with the wettest day of the month – the 16<sup>th</sup> having over 1" of rain all told including the overnight rainfall. A heron was seen flying overhead on the 20<sup>th</sup> heading in a NE direction. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Great Storm (1987) on the 15<sup>th</sup> was mild and windy with some sun in the afternoon after a grey damp start.

The fourth week was again mixed with some hazy sun, a light breeze at times and some mists. The morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> was wet with nearly 0.5" inches of rain but became sunny in the afternoon after a misty start.

Total rainfall for the month was 76mm (approx 3") falling on 11 days. Making this October easily the driest October of the century so far. (October 2003 with 91mm being the only other one to have less than 4" and all the others having nearly 8" or more).  
2 air frosts of -1°C + 1 ground frost were recorded.

We would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year

## **COPY FOR THE MAGAZINE**

**Please leave any material for the magazine at Dunkery View on the Friday morning before the deadline date set in the previous month's magazine, preferably before 9am!** I can't promise to collect them after that time so if late you will either have to bring them to me or they may not be included.

emails by Friday if possible but can be dealt with up to Monday lunchtime. If there is a problem please ring me on 831513 or email [cynthste@talktalk.net](mailto:cynthste@talktalk.net)